

# Youths Sought for Police Explorer Post Plan

The police department is still looking for high-school-age boys to join the law enforcement Explorer posts organizing in 20 neighborhood police districts, according to Lt. Therlow Simons, community services liaison officer.

The Chicago area council of the Boy Scouts of America [B. S. A.] for the past several months has been helping the police department organize the posts in all districts except the 1st district. Lt. Simons said each district is authorized an enrollment of 25 boys.

## Supervisors Selected

Scouting and police officials met late last year to map a 24-month program for neighborhood youth who qualify for the program.

Post advisors and a committee for each district have been

chosen from community adults and district patrolmen.

The posts are still in the recruiting stages, according to Samuel Nolan deputy superintendent in charge of community services. He said plans are being made to present charters to each post during ceremonies in the city council chambers in late February.

## Medical Posts Established

According to Wayne Shannon, director of Explorers for the scouting council, the law enforcement posts will be part of a nation-wide vocational program sponsored by B. S. A.

He said several hospitals in the Chicago area are sponsoring medical Explorer posts. The Los Angeles police department has been sponsoring law enforcement posts for several years, he said.

Shannon emphasized that the vocational explorer program departs from the popular conception of the scouting program of camping and outdoorsmanship. "It is an attempt to foster interests in a vocation among youth," he said.

Shannon and Nolan agreed that connection with B. S. A. should be played down as much as possible when recruiting youth for the district posts.

"We don't want the boys to confuse this with the regular scouting program," Shannon said. "Some boys just don't like the idea of running around the woods."

## B. S. A. Acts as Organizer

Shannon said professional scouting organizers help companies and agencies organize the posts in the initial stages. "Once the posts are organized B. S. A. is only involved in an advisory capacity," he said.

He said the posts will not be funded by B. S. A. Dues will be collected and some of the operating and program expense will be funded by the police department community service budget, Shannon said.

Nolan said, "The program has been carefully designed to meet the needs and desires of high-school-age boys. Using the program, adults can help boys become mature, responsible citizens.

"Altho police officials are hoping to interest young men in law enforcement," Nolan said, "the program is basically designed to build character, train or citizenship, and develop physical fitness among boys."

## Qualifications Told

To apply for membership, Nolan said, a youth must be a resident of the police district; have no serious police record; give at least two adult references other than parents or relatives; be physically sound; have and maintain a passing grade in school; and be a high school student not more than 18 years old.

The 24-month program planned by police and B. S. A. officials includes visits to all divisions of the police department and lecture-discussions conducted by the division officers.

Nolan said interested youth can get an application at their local police district station.